

**Course Outline for:** WMST 1120 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Goal #9 Civic and Ethical Responsibility

This course investigates the evolving position of women in society and the role of gender in shaping opportunities and experiences. Through various cultural and theoretical perspectives, students analyze how women's rights and roles change and how gender influences power, status and meaning.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** April 2022**C. Outline of Major Content Area**

1. Concepts of gender, patriarchy, sociobiology and socialization
2. The roles and rights of women in society through both contemporary and historical perspectives
3. Issues of race, class, age, ability, and sexual orientation
4. The history of feminism and the women's movement
5. Theoretical underpinnings of women's and gender studies
6. Women, gender and media
7. Sexual relationships, cohabitation, and marriage
8. Women's health and reproduction
9. Families and motherhood
10. Women, work and economics
11. Gender in power and politics
12. Women and education
13. Women and religion
14. Issues of gender-based violence

**D. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine women's rights and roles in society through both contemporary and historical perspectives (Goal 2a, 2d, 5a 5c, 9b, 9e).
2. Analyze the ways by which gender influences power, status and meaning (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5d, 9a, 9b, 9c).
3. Examine the role of women and issues of gender in diverse ethnic groups and cultures, and those with diverse lifestyles (Goal 2b, 5b, 9d).
4. Assess the ways that patriarchy influences women's familial, economic, religious, and political experiences (Goal 2b, 5d, 9b, 9c).
5. Explain institutional sexism and gender-based discrimination (Goal 2d, 5a, 5b, 9b).

6. Explore the ways by which gender overlaps with other status categories (i.e race, class, sexuality, ability, etc.) and influences experiences and opportunities (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5c, 5d 9b, 9c).
7. Analyze the history and role of the Women's Movement in the United States and cross-culturally (Goal 2c, 5b, 9d, 9e).

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to: exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, essays, groups work and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

**F. Special Information:**

This course is cross listed with ANTH 1120 and SOC 1120.